

App. No. 09/945321  
Office Action Dated June 2, 2004  
Amd. Dated October 4, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claims 7-10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-6 and 11-14 are amended.

Claims 15-23 are new.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Device for purifying molten glass;
  - 1.1 with a bubble dispenser for generating gas bubbles from an external gas source as well as for introducing these gas bubbles into the molten mass;
  - 1.2 with a pressurized-gas source arranged prior to the bubble dispenser;
  - 1.3 the bubble dispenser comprising a porous body with open pores, the porous body comprises a ceramic material, wherein the ceramic material is selected from one of the following materials:

silicon carbide;

aluminum oxide;

silicon dioxide; or

aluminum silicate;

- 1.4 the pores of the porous body [[2]] having an average diameter of less than 0.5 mm.

2. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that wherein the pores of the porous body [[2]] have an average diameter of less than 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

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3. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that  
wherein the porous body [[2]] is disk- or plug-shaped.

4. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized through the  
following features wherein:

- 4.1 the porous body [[(2)]] is sleeve-shaped;
- 4.2 the porous body [[(2)]] can be installed in a purification vessel [[(1)]] such that it protrudes into the molten mass;
- 4.3 the porous body [[(2)]] connectable with its one end to the pressure source, while its other end is closed.

5. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that  
wherein the porous body [[(2)]] ~~consists of~~ comprises a porous material.

6. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that  
wherein the porous body [[(2)]] displays a lattice, mesh, grid, or grating structure.

7-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim [[9]] 15, characterized by the  
fact that wherein the porous body [[(2)]] can be electrically heated.

12. (Currently Amended) Arrangement for purifying molten glass;

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- 12.1 with a purification vessel;
- 12.2 with a bubble dispenser for generating gas bubbles from an external pressurized-gas source as well as for introducing the gas bubbles into the molten mass;
- 12.3 the bubble dispenser comprising a porous body [[(2)]] according to claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) Device and method for purifying molten [[gas]] glass according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that wherein used as the bubbling gas is oxygen.

14. (Currently Amended) Device and method for purifying molten [[gas]] glass according to claim 1, characterized by the fact that wherein used as the bubbling gas is helium.

15. (New) Device for purifying molten glass;  
with a bubble dispenser for generating gas bubbles from an external gas source as well as for introducing these gas bubbles into the molten mass;  
with a pressurized-gas source arranged prior to the bubble dispenser;  
the bubble dispenser comprising a porous body with open pores, the porous body comprises a sintered metal, the sintered metal is selected from one of the following materials:

tungsten;  
molybdenum;  
platinum;  
iridium;

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or an alloy of these metals;

the pores of the porous body having an average diameter of less than 0.5 mm.

16. (New) Device according to claim 15, wherein the pores of the porous body have an average diameter of less than 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

17. (New) Device according to claim 15, wherein the porous body is disk- or plug-shaped.

18. (New) Device according to claim 15, wherein:  
the porous body is sleeve-shaped;  
the porous body can be installed in a purification vessel such that it protrudes into the molten mass;  
the porous body connectable with its one end to the pressure source, while its other end is closed.

19. (New) Device according to claim 15, wherein the porous body consists of porous material.

20. (New) Device according to claim 15, wherein the porous body displays a lattice, mesh, grid, or grating structure.

21. (New) Arrangement for purifying molten glass;

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- with a purification vessel;  
with a bubble dispenser for generating gas bubbles from an external pressurized-gas source as well as for introducing the gas bubbles into the molten mass;  
the bubble dispenser comprising a porous body according to claim 15.
22. (New) Device and method for purifying molten glass according to claim 15,  
wherein used as the bubbling gas is oxygen.
23. (New) Device and method for purifying molten glass according to claim 15,  
wherein used as the bubbling gas is helium.